



NEWS RELEASE

Medicine Bow-Routt National Forests Thunder Basin National Grassland

Date: Sept. 22, 2010

**Contact: Diann Ritschard
970-870-2187**

Small fire south of Hayden on Routt National Forest

(Yampa, Colo.) – The Beaver Flat Fire is 30 acres, burning in spruce/fir about 20 miles south of Hayden near Stinsby Reservoir on the Routt National Forest. It was detected at 11:30 a.m. yesterday, Sept. 21. The cause of the fire is believed to be lightning but will be investigated.

Tankers dropped retardant on the fire last night. Initial attack was by smokejumpers. The Roosevelt Hot Shots and Rogue River Hot Shots, who were already on the Routt National Forest doing hazard tree removal work, are dispatched to the fire. Local Forest Service and BLM fire crews are also supporting the firefighting effort. Two helicopters are on scene as well. Full containment is the fire management strategy.

Northwestern Colorado is extremely dry this fall so please use extra caution with campfires.

Here are a few tips to follow to keep fire use safe:

- Use existing fire pits where available
- Clear vegetation and debris to bare soil in areas where fire will be used
- Have water and a shovel handy
- Make sure cigarettes and matches are cold before discarding them
- Never, ever leave a campfire unattended. One small spark can quickly become a raging wildland fire.
- Stir water and dirt into coals until the fire is dead out
- Try to avoid building campfires on windy days
- Don't park in tall grass or brush; hot tail pipes can start fire

-end-